

Hi, my name is Audrey and I am from Los Angeles, California. This August, my family and I went to Vietnam and we visited several orphanages. We distributed care packages that included school supplies, and we also donated bags of rice. I built 2 websites for 2 of the orphanages I visited, which will hopefully help them receive visitors and volunteers. Here's a brief summary of what we did:

The first orphanage we visited was Thien An Orphanage in Can Tho, Vietnam. My mom and I had previously contacted Yen, the director, and so we had set up an appointment to go and talk to her on August 2nd. Thien An was very hidden, so they had to send some workers out on motorbikes to pick us up and take us on a trail to the secluded orphanage. My grandma, mom, and I talked to some of the workers once we got there to learn more about the orphanage (so that I could transfer the info to the website I was building), and to learn about the kids and what they need most. After we talked, I took some pictures as one of the workers gave us a tour of the orphanage. I got to talk to some of the kids, but it was pretty brief since it was getting late.



On August 3rd, my whole family came to Thien An. We distributed care packages we had made in advance (funded by bake sales I had organized in July) which included school supplies and some food. We also donated 10 bags of rice (100 lbs each). Then, my brothers and I were able to play with the kids and I got to take more pictures for the website. They were absolutely adorable!

My family and I visited Vinh Phuoc An Tu Orphanage in Bac Lieu August 5-6. The kids here were very young, all under the age of 5. In total, there were over 50 orphans living at VPATO. They were so cute and were very eager to play with visitors! I was able to take pictures while playing with them (for hours!) and get information to make their website. My mom and I also gave them 10 bags of rice. It was really hard to say good-bye to them, but hopefully I'll get to visit VPATO next time I go to Vietnam!



Our last stop was another Buddhist Temple Orphanage in Bac Lieu. This one was smaller, and the children were older. My family and I didn't have a lot of time, since our van-driver was on a strict schedule, so we were only able to spend a couple of hours. My mom and I talked to the director, and we gave them some food and school supplies.

It was overall an amazing trip and a really humbling experience. I'm glad that I was able to help the orphans, even if it was just a little bit. I already miss playing and talking to them, but I'm looking forward to seeing them again sometime in the future! :)

